

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
SPANISH PROJECT PROPOSALS

REF: MADRID 9487

SUMMARY: SPANISH SIDE JOINT COMMITTEE HAS INVITED
CONCURRENCE OF U.S. SIDE ON SPANISH PUBLIC INVITATION FOR
PROPOSALS IN THE THREE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES PROPOSED BY
THEM ON OCTOBER 22 MEETING. EMBASSY COMMENTD CONCURRENCE
IF SPANISH WILL ACCEPT CERTAIN CONDITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SPANISH SECRETARY OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE HAS
INVITED US CONCURRENCE IN THE PROPOSAL OF THE SPANISH
SIDE TO PUBLISH IN THE OFFICIAL STATE BULLETIN OF THE
SPANISH GOVT (EQUIVALENT TO OUR FEDERAL REGISTER) A
NATIONAL INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROJECT PROPOSALS. THIS
INVITATION WOULD CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN THE 3 CATEGORIES
DISCUSSED AT THE OCT 22 MEETING: PROCUREMENT OF MATERIALS,
DIRECT SUPPORT OF SPANISH RESEARCH PROJECTS AND
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH BETWEEN U.S.M AND SPANISH AGENCIES.

2. EMBOFF WAS ASSURED THAT THE SPANISH NOW ENVISAGE
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DEVOTING ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL FUNDS TO
DIRECT SUPPORT OF SPANISH RESEARCH, ALTHOUGH THE
SPANISH CO CHAIRMAN SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TALK
ABOUT ACTUAL PERCENTAGES.

3. THE SPANISH SIDE HAS ALSO INDICATED GREATER
FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTICIPATION IN THE

SELECTION PROCESS. THE SPANISH SECRETARY REPORTS THAT A SPANISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (REALLY A SELECTION COMMITTEE) IS TO BE FORMED SOON WHICH WILL SCREEN ALL INCOMING SPANISH PROPOSALS FOR BOTH DIRECT RESEARCH SUPPORT AND COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND SEPARATE THE SURVIVORS INTO TWO CLASSES: HIGHLY MERITORIOUS AND OTHER PROPOSALS STILL WORTH CONSIDERATION. PROPOSALS IN THE HIGHER CATEGORY (OR PERHAPS BOTH CATEGORIES) WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE US SIDE FOR EVALUATION PRIOR TO FORMAL CONSIDERATION IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE. EXPERTS WOULD BE CONSULTED AT THIS POINT AS NECESSARY.

4. PROPOSALS HAVING TO DO WITH PROCUREMENT OF MATERIALS WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE U.S. ONLY AT THE LEVEL OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, UNLESS, IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, THE SPANISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FEELS US EXPERTISE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. COMPOSITION OF THE FUTURE SPANISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS NOT YET CERTAIN BUT IT WILL RELY HEAVILY ON THE PERMANENT ADVISORY COMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY. IT MAY EVEN BE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION. THIS COMMISSION ON WHICH ALL TECHNICAL MINISTRIES HAVE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HAS AN ADEQUATE HEADQUARTERS STAFF FOR THE TASK AND CAN CALL ON ALL TECHNICAL MINISTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE. THERE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE SPECIALIST PANELS FOR SEVERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIELDS REPORTING TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SPANISH SIDE IS SYMPATHETIC TO HAVING U.S. EXPERTS WORK WITH THESE TO SOME EXTENT NOTE THAT THE PRESENT INTERMINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MENTIONED IN REFTTEL PAR 2. IS A AD HOCE GROUP SERVING THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE SPANISH SIDE. MANY OF ITS MEMBERS ARE LIKELY TO BE ON THE FUTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

6. THE PROCEDURE WHICH THE SPANISH SIDE INTENDS TO FOLLOW IS THUS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE US APPROACH BUT THE SPANISH CO CHAIRMAN CLAIMS THAT THIS IS THE BEST HIS MINISTRY HAS BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT WITH THE MINISTRIES. AN EARLIER EFFORT ON HIS PART TO HAVE THE FUTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WITH HIMSELF AS CHAIRMAN, SEEMS TO HAVE FAILED.

7. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE US SIDE CONCUR ON THE PROMPT ISSUANCE OF INVITATIONS FOR PROPOSALS PROVIDED

THAT (A) THE TEXTS OF THE INVITATIONS AND GUIDELINES
ARE APPROVED BY BOTH SIDES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
AND (KB) THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS CLEARLY
INDICATE THAT THEY ARE ISSUED WITH THE APPROVAL OF
THE JOINT COMMITTEE IN FURTHERANCE OF THE OBJECTIVES
OF THE 1976 TREATY AND ITS SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT
NO 3.

8. EMBASSY WISHES TO REPLY TO SPANISH CO CHAIRMANS'S
REQUEST WELL BEFORE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR AND
WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE HAVING DEPARTMENT'S
REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. STABLER

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